



## How Health Insurance Reform Will Help Early Retirees – Aged 55 to 64

### Lowering Costs for Early Retirees

#### ✓ **Preventive Care for Better Health**

- Over 70 percent of costs and deaths in the U.S. result from chronic diseases, many of which afflict early retirees, and many of which can be prevented or controlled. Health reform will ensure that all health plans cover basic preventive services and encourage innovations in health care to avoid disease and improve outcomes.

#### ✓ **Support Early Retiree Health Coverage**

- Health reform will provide financial assistance to employer health plans that cover early retirees, bringing down health costs and premiums by as much as \$1,200 per family per year for some plans.

### Protecting Choices for Early Retirees

#### ✓ **Stabilize Coverage for Early Retirees**

- The proportion of large firms providing workers with some type of retiree coverage dropped from 66 percent in 1988 to 31 percent in 2008. By providing financial relief to businesses that provide health coverage to early retirees, health reform will make it easier for early retirees to obtain health care coverage.

#### ✓ **Insurance Security – The Exchange**

- Less than half of people aged 55 to 64 work full-time. Health insurance reform will guarantee that you will always have choices of quality, affordable health insurance even if you retire early and lose access to employer-sponsored insurance. It will create a health insurance exchange so you can compare prices and health plans and decide which quality affordable option is right for you.

#### ✓ **More Affordable Choices and Competition**

- Employer-based retiree coverage rarely offers a choice of plans. Early retirees seeking coverage in the exchange will have a choice of numerous private plans as well as a competitive public insurance option that will keep insurance companies honest.

### Assuring Stable, Secure Health Care for Early Retirees

#### ✓ **Eliminate Discrimination for Pre-Existing Conditions and Health Status**

- Early retirees are more likely to have chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes – which insurers can use to deny coverage. Health insurance reform will prevent any insurance company from denying coverage based on a person's medical history and it will end discrimination that charges you more if you're sick.

#### ✓ **Limit Age Rating to Make Coverage More Affordable**

- Health reform will reduce the amount that insurance companies can vary premiums based on age, helping to ensure early retirees have access to affordable coverage.

#### ✓ **Cut The Bureaucracy for You and Your Doctor**

- Health reform will simplify paperwork; computerize medical records with strong privacy protections; and make sure forms are easy to read so Americans can easily compare health plans and work with their doctors to take charge of their health choices.

#### ✓ **Promote High Quality Care**

- Health insurance reform will establish medically driven priorities and standards on quality, encourage quality reporting by hospitals, and provide incentive payments for high, quality performance. As a result, early retirees will have better health care.